



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
YAKIMA, WASHINGTON  
AGENDA STATEMENT**

Item No. 9.A.  
For Meeting of: September 3, 2024

**ITEM TITLE:** Gang Reduction Intervention Task Force (GRIT) and transfer from City of Yakima oversight

**SUBMITTED BY:** Sara Watkins, City Attorney

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:**

In 2018 Governor Jay Inslee granted the City of Yakima \$150,000 as a governor's proviso grant to create a community-based framework and pilot program to address youth gang involvement, interest and violence, with a goal of using that framework to obtain future grants. As part of that proviso grant and work, a Steering Committee was formed which consisted of three City Councilmembers, as well as other stakeholders. Additionally, the Gang Reduction and Intervention Taskforce Village was created to provide a forum for collaboration, networking and aiding youth involved, or at risk of involvement in gangs. During the first year the City applied for and obtained a OJJDP Youth Gang Suppression Implementation Grant in the amount of \$230,000 for a three-year program in the Yakima School District's middle schools. The City partnered with ESD 105 to provide education advocates to the program, called the Yakima Youth Leadership Program, who provided additional advocacy and support for the participants. The program was successful, and after the federal grant money ended, ESD 105 weaved the program into its services that it provides for middle school students.

During this time the City continued to support the Gang Reduction and Intervention Taskforce by facilitating the Steering Committee and Village meetings. Since COVID the Village meetings have been successfully facilitated by OIC of Yakima, while the City has continued to facilitate the Steering Committee meetings.

The goal was to create a community organization to address youth gang involvement, interest and violence. The Steering Committee has added a number of stakeholders to its group, and the group recently elected a Chair and Vice-Chair to run the meetings, and a Secretary to take notes. City Councilmembers are still involved in the Steering Committee.

Because the City was the initial creator of the Steering Committee, the City Council is the authorized body that can amend the Charter of the Gang Reduction and Intervention Taskforce. The current Charter has significant City involvement as the entity that oversees and runs the Village and the Steering Committee. However, with new Steering Committee members, and a focus on community-wide issues, impacts and programming (throughout Yakima County), the Steering Committee requests that the City Council approve the Charter changes proposed.

These changes do the following:

1. Add a number of stakeholder members to the Steering Committee to provide a broad and diverse perspective.
2. Changes the meeting requirement for the Steering Committee from every two months to quarterly.
3. Provides that the Chair or Vice-Chair shall call the meetings rather than the City of Yakima, transferring facilitation to the Steering Committee and its members.
4. Emphasizes the need for community-wide evaluation of the issues.
5. Provides for an annual report which will be sent to agencies, governments and stakeholders from the Steering Committee.
6. Allows the Steering Committee to have oversight of the Village.
7. Allows the Steering Committee to amend the Charter and terminate GRIT if necessary.

The redlined version of the Charter is provided as well for your reference. These changes have been approved by the Steering Committee after review and comment.

The changes can be done by motion: I move to amend the Gang Reduction and Intervention Taskforce Charter as provided.

**ITEM BUDGETED:** N/A

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 24-25:** A Safe and Healthy Yakima

**RECOMMENDATION:** Amend the Gang Reduction and Intervention Taskforce (GRIT) Charter.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Charter\\_GRIT\\_Amendment\\_redline.pdf](#)

[Charter\\_GRIT\\_Amendment\\_Final.docx](#)